MOVING PAST ALL THE HEARTBREAK

LEIGHTON ON LIFE BEFORE HER HAPPILY EVER AFTER. PAGE 18

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METRO FOCUS PRISONS

Skewed system

Disproportionate. Philly prisons are composed of mostly broke young black men who are either mentally ill or addicted to drugs. PAGE 02

Inside the Philadelphia Prison System's Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, which serves as the county's main intake and administrative facility. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Nicki Minaj tour member killed

PAGE 06

Jon Cryer on leaving 'Two and a Half Men'

PAGE 15

Metro picks Flyers all-time top defenders

PAGE 27

Penn

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1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 '4 things you should know about beagles before you adopt one'

2 'PHOTOS: Reportedly unretouched Beyoncé photos leak, Internet panics'

3 'VIRAL VIDEO: Guys read each other's texts to their girlfriends'

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Mostly black men, and mentally ill

Inequality under lock and key. Philly prisons are composed of mostly broke young black men who are either mentally ill or addicted to drugs.

In Part 3 of Metro's three-part series examining the overpopulation of the city's prison system, we look at the racial makeup and mental health of the inmates.

They're usually broke.

They're typically mentally ill or addicted to drugs or dependent on alcohol.

And they're black.

"Racially, it's generally African-American, Hispanic and white," Philadelphia Prisons Commissioner Lou Giorla said of the prison's population, "in descending order."

According to the most recent data from Giorla's office, the Philadelphia Prison System is filled with mostly African-American men.

The six jails and two satellite campuses that make up the city's system contain a total of 8,009 inmates.

Approximately 5,045 are African-American men. And 3,358 of those black male inmates are between the ages of 18 and 35.

According to District Attorney Seth Williams, Chief Public Defender Byron Cotter and Giorla, a majority of the inmates are not only awaiting trial, but they are also suffering from a mental disability or are addicted to drugs or alcohol. And, most likely, after they are released from prison they commit another crime and walk back through the front doors.

Why is this the case, and how can it change?

TOMMY ROWAN
@tommyrowan
tommy.rowan@metro.us

Overpopulation

Overpopulation is always an issue in Philadelphia's jails, Cotter says. But to keep ex-cons out of jail, you need to help them on the outside.

Their needs? Jobs, drug treatment and, most importantly, housing.

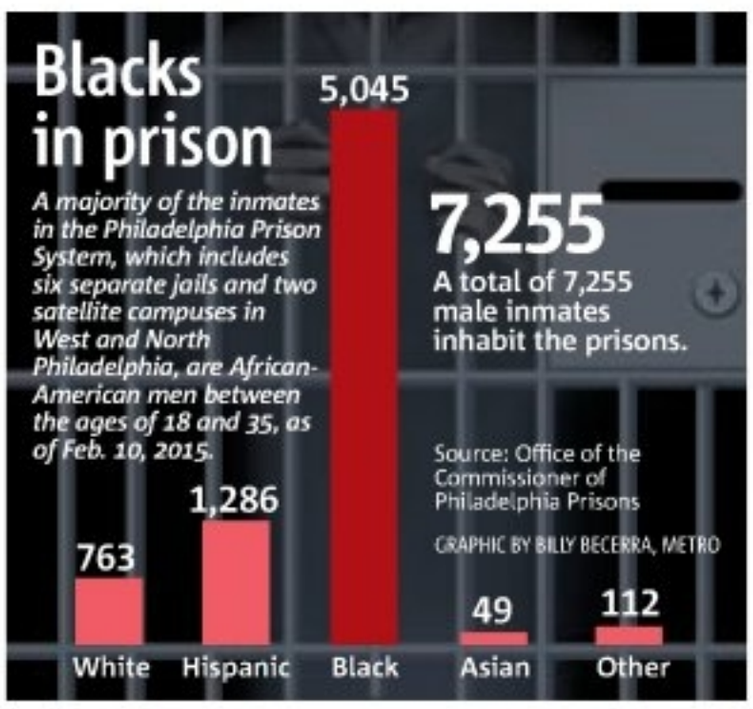
"We're trying to work on reducing the clients that don't really need to be in jail, that it would be better for them to be in a drug or job program," Cotter said.

"You need to get them out, but also make it possible that they have the things that they need to prevent them from coming back," he said.

To fight the overpopulation, Williams says his office has created programs for alternative treatment outside the jailhouse, instead of "clogging the courts and the prisons with individuals that they believe can accept responsibility for their criminal behavior, and at the same time address the underlying causes of their criminal behavior," he said.

"By addressing the root causes of their criminal behavior we'll also save on future incarceration costs," he said.

Inside the Philadelphia Prison System's Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, the county's main intake and administrative facility. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO


Blacks in prison
A majority of the inmates in the Philadelphia Prison System, which includes six separate jails and two satellite campuses in West and North Philadelphia, are African-American men between the ages of 18 and 35, as of Feb. 10, 2015.
5,045
7,255
A total of 7,255 male inmates inhabit the prisons.
Source: Office of the Commissioner of Philadelphia Prisons
GRAPHIC BY BILLY BECERRA, METRO
763
1,286
49
112
White
Hispanic
Black
Asian
Other

Education

"What is the No. 1 thing people who get arrested in Philadelphia have in common?" Williams asked. "They dropped out of high school."

High school dropouts are eight times more likely to go to state prison than graduates, Williams said, and high school dropouts in Philadelphia are 20 times more likely to be homicide victims.

So the best way to reduce the prison population, and the best way to reduce crime in this city, is to keep kids in school and to watch for warning signs, he said.

"That starts with early childhood education," Williams said. "It means when you discipline kids in school they stay in school as opposed to getting suspended and hanging out on the streets for three days."

Warning signs: students with chronically unexcused absences.

"Generally, it doesn't start off that the kid is a rebel in any way, it's just there is some dysfunction in the family that has to be addressed," he said. "And often, the child has a behavioral issue because they weren't socialized appropriately before they started in first grade, and so they're not ready to begin learning and they fall behind and it's a snowball effect."

Mental illness

One third of the city prison population is mentally ill, according to Giorla, and 13 percent are seriously mentally ill.

"Many of those individuals, even though they commit crimes, are not competent," Giorla said. "They require some community supervision and assistance."

Giorla said chronic mental illness or medical issues significantly affect inmate behavior, leaving them unable to work, straining family relationships and hampering people's ability to get help within the community before they end up in jail.

The DA's office and the courts work together to send inmates to mental health and addiction treatment to try and attack the major issues.

A holistic view of the offender would be helpful, Giorla said, but it's also expensive and time-consuming, "and in some cases it's unsuccessful."

Giorla adds: "One of the hardest things to deal with for people in the treatment community is the recidivism rate and the dropout rate. They're high."

These are high-risk individuals who often have had these problems most of their lives. They can't be corrected in a day.

"People get overwhelmed and burn out trying to render these services, because the successes are small, they're few and far between," he said. "But some of the ones you have are amazing."

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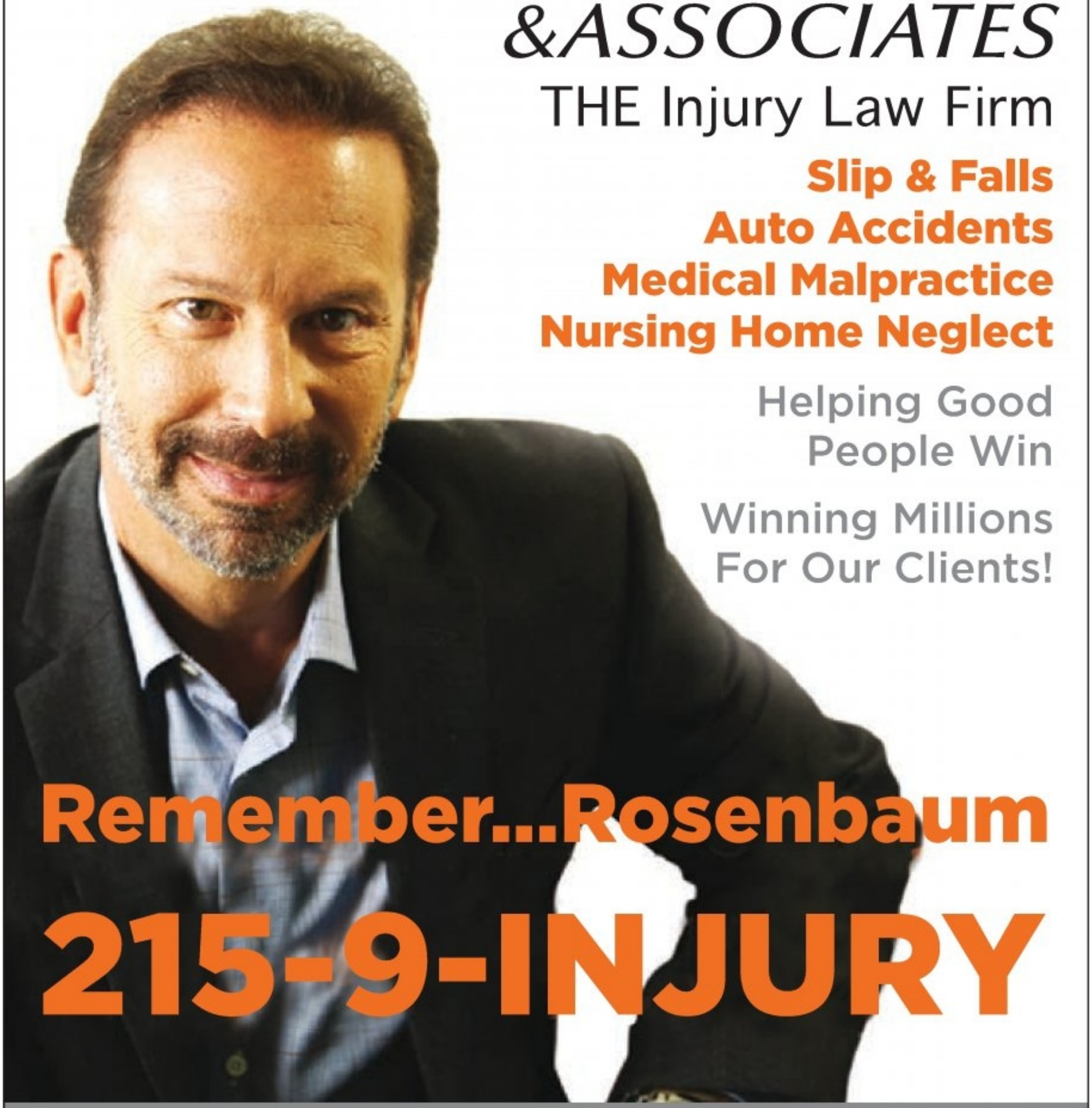

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Frankford. Cops in Tate-Brown death returned to duty

Two officers involved in the December death of Brandon Tate-Brown have been returned to street duty after the conclusion of an internal investigation, cops said Wednesday.

Tate-Brown, 26, was killed after a traffic stop in Frankford, during which he allegedly struggled for a gun with officers.

The shooting remains under review by the D.A.'s office.

Brian Mildenberg, the lawyer representing Tate-Brown's family, said they are "disappointed that the city has refused to date to release the videotape and other evidence.

"We feel that if the video is in favor of the officers, let the public see the video and show that is the case in order to provide closure to this family," he said.

"I don't feel like they should be back on the street without them having released the tape or giving us the name of the cops," said activist Megan Malachi, who still suspects wrongdoing.

"As someone who has lived in Philadelphia their entire life ... I think you would be stupid to believe what the police said," she said.

SAM NEWHOUSE

Official story

Uniformed officers reportedly pulled over Tate-Brown for not having the headlights of his white Dodge Charger on at around 2:45 a.m. on Dec. 15.

- Police said Tate-Brown scuffled with the officers and ran for a gun when they shot him.

Catholics celebrate ancient custom

An Archdiocese of Philadelphia priest marks ash on the forehead of a woman during Ash Wednesday Mass at the Basilica of St. Peter and Paul on Feb. 18. The ceremony marks the beginning of Lent, which lasts until Easter Sunday on April 5. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Philadelphia

Former teacher gets 30-60 years for child rape

Sumo Dukulah, 40, was sentenced Wednesday to 31 to 63 years in prison

for raping his own daughter from the ages of 10 to 16, prosecutors announced.

Dukulah "argued for 20 minutes that he, not the child, was the victim" at his sentencing, prosecutors say, before sentence was handed down.

Dukulah began to abuse the girl after she emigrated from Liberia and threatened to send her back if she complained. The girl's own mother told her not to complain, prosecutors said in April.

At 16, the girl told friends about the abuse, who notified authorities.

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BBB

West Oak Lane. Nicki Minaj crew member killed in bar brawl

A roadie for Nicki Minaj was fatally stabbed in a Philly bar, the rapper announced Wednesday.

The deceased, De'Von Pickett, and another Minaj crew member were stabbed at the Che Bar & Grill on Stenton Avenue in Philadelphia's West Oak Lane neighborhood, Tuesday night. The second victim, Eric Parker, is hospitalized in critical condition.

They were in Philadelphia readying for the star's upcoming tour with Meek Mill, her boyfriend and Philly native.

Minaj tweeted: "Two members of my team were stabbed last night in Philly. One was killed. They had only been there for two days rehearsing for the tour."

Hours before his death, Pickett had tweeted, "LIFE #GODISTHEGREATEST" from his Twitter handle, @DayDayDoesDis.

No arrests were reported. JOHN A. OSWALD

Philadelphia

D.A. Williams fights death penalty ban

D.A. Seth Williams filed a petition Wednesday with the state Supreme Court to overturn Gov. Tom Wolf's moratorium on the death penalty.

"Our constitution does not allow the governor to satisfy his own personal opinions by halting a capital murderer's sentence," Williams said in a statement. METRO

Ice house now a danger

An L&I inspector surveys the ice-covered Locust Medical Center building on 52nd Street, which was destroyed in a fire earlier this week. The building has been declared unsafe and will be demolished soon. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Montco. Victoria's Secret 'cheer mom' pleads 'not guilty'

The so-called "cheer mom," Iris Gibney, the 42-year-old Victoria's Secret saleswoman allegedly caught having sex with a 17-year-old boy, entered a not guilty plea Wednesday.

Iris Gibney / FACEBOOK

Gibney met the teen, a soccer player, at a football game last fall while her daughter was cheering for the team.

Cops in Upper Pottsgrove found Gibney and the boy naked inside a car in Hollenbach Park in the township on Nov. 15. A cop said he saw her pleasuring the boy, court documents say.

She pleaded not guilty at her arraignment Wednesday to charges of corrupting a minor, trespass and distribution of explicit materials to a minor via texts found on the boy's confiscated cell phone.

Her lawyer, Fortunato N. Perri, Jr., told Metro: "We're looking forward to resolving this matter as soon as possible."

When she was caught, cops said Gibney told them: "I've never been in trouble before. I can't believe I did this. I have three children of my own. I am so, so sorry."

Her husband, Ryan Gibney, of Pottsgrove told The Daily Mail in December that he was upset, hurt and trying to keep his family together. JOHN A. OSWALD

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Five things you need to know

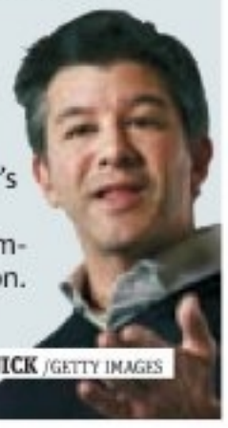
1 Uber seeking $1B more in latest funding round

Uber Technologies has expanded a fundraising round to $1 billion from $600 million amid swelling investor appetite for the mobile car-booking application.

Uber submitted a filing Wednesday to the Delaware Secretary of State to bump up its fundraising to $1 billion, according to a representative of the San Francisco-based company. Bloomberg News reported last month that Uber was seeking an additional $600 million from hedge funds and international strategic investors as part of a financing round known as its Series E round.

Uber has been on a money-raising tear. The company, led by Chief Executive Officer Travis Kalanick, raised $1.2 billion in financing in December, which valued the startup at $40 billion, one of the highest valuations for a closely held technology startup. Last month, Uber also closed $1.6 billion in convertible debt from Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s wealth management clients, people with knowledge of the matter said.

"The participation we have seen in Uber's Series E underscores the confidence investors have in Uber's growth," said Nairi Hourdajian, Uber's head of global communication. BLOOMBERG



KALANICK /GETTY IMAGES

2 Fed worried about hiking rates too soon

A Federal Reserve policymakers expressed concern last month that raising interest rates too soon could pour cold water on the U.S. economic recovery, and fretted over the impact of dropping "patient" from the central bank's interest rate guidance.

At the central bank's last policy-setting meeting in January, Fed officials debated the impact that stubbornly low inflation measures were having on the central bank's confidence in moving ahead with raising rates.

They also noted how China's economic slowdown and tensions in the Middle East and Ukraine posed downside risks to the U.S. economic growth outlook. REUTERS

3 Trial set for suspect in killing of Va. student

The man accused of murdering University of Virginia student Hannah Graham will go on trial starting on June 29 in Charlottesville, officials said on Wednesday.

The trial of Jesse Matthew Jr., a 33-year-old Charlottesville hospital worker, is scheduled to last three weeks, an Albemarle County Circuit Court spokesperson said.

Matthew was indicted on charges of first-degree murder and abduction with intent to defile. REUTERS

4 Refinery blast at Exxon refinery in California injures three

An explosion and fire at Exxon Mobil Corp's Torrance, California, refinery sprayed ash on cars, shattered windows of surrounding buildings and hurt three workers on Wednesday.

The workers suffered minor injuries in the explosion and fire, and were treated at the scene, a fire captain said.

The explosion occurred near a fluid catalytic cracking unit of the refinery, according to David Campbell, the treasurer and secretary of the local chapter of the United Steelworkers,which represents plant operators. REUTERS

5 Obama chooses Clancy to be Secret Service director

President Barack Obama has chosen Joseph Clancy as the new head of the Secret Service, the White House said on Wednesday, after a series of high-profile, security lapses led to a shake-up in the troubled agency's leadership.

Clancy, who personally helped guard the lives of three U.S. presidents, has been head of the agency on an interim basis for the past four months. Director Julia Pierson stepped down in October. REUTERS

CLANCY /GETTY IMAGES

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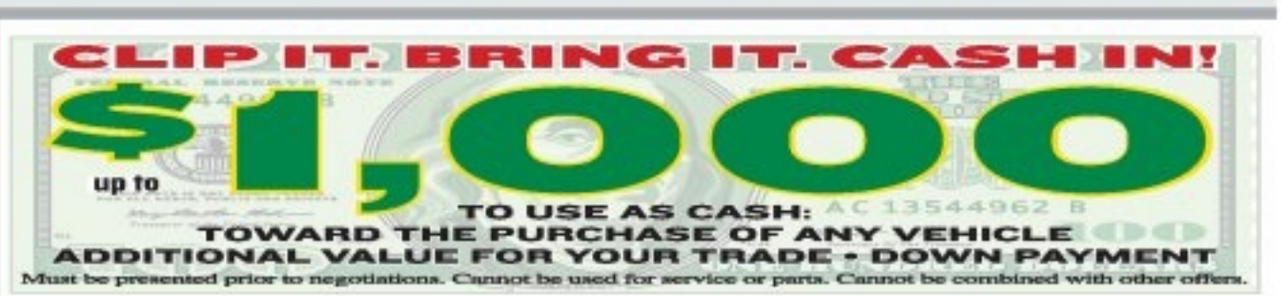
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1. Viagra® Prescribing Information, Pfizer Inc. Revised January 2010.
2. Cialis® Prescribing Information, Lilly USA, LLC. Revised October 2011.
3. Levitra® Prescribing Information, Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals. Revised November 2011.
4. AMS 700® Patient Manual, Information and Instructions for Patients Considering an Inflatable Penile Prosthesis. American Medical Systems 2013.

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Jeb Bush: Step up fight against Islamic State

Asked if the United States should engage diplomatically with ISIS, Bush said absolutely not. / REX USA

Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Bush issued criticism of President Obama's handling of foreign policy.

Republican Jeb Bush offered a vision of a more robust U.S. foreign policy on Wednesday, saying the strategy toward Islamic State should be one that "takes them out" and not to engage diplomatically with the militants.

Addressing the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Bush, a possible Republican contender in the 2016 presidential election, sought to lay to rest any concerns that his foreign policy views might be influenced by the presidential legacies of his father and brother, saying, "I am my own man."

As for the Iraq war that damaged the second term of his brother, former President George W. Bush, Jeb Bush said "there were mistakes made in Iraq for sure," but gave his brother credit for a 2006 troop surge that helped stabilize Iraq.

He said he was surprised Obama had opposed an appearance before the U.S. Congress by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and was eager to hear what he had to say. He said Obama was being overly generous in his negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

Bush said the United States military needs to be rebuilt after budget cuts of recent years and described the challenge from Islamic militants as the greatest threat to U.S. security of current times.

With opinion polls showing Bush a front-runner among Republicans jockeying for the 2016 presidential nomination, he appeared determined to avoid becoming entangled in debates about the foreign policy legacies of both past presidents Bush. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"There's no talking about this. That's just not going to work for terrorism."
Jeb Bush

Security Council

Libya, Egypt ask UN to lift arms embargo to fight Islamic State

Libya and Egypt asked the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday to lift an arms embargo on Libya, impose a naval blockade on areas not under government control and help build the country's army to tackle Islamic State (ISIS) and other militants.

Libya has descended into factional fighting, leaving the country almost lawless nearly four years after the fall of Moammar Gadhafi. Two competing governments backed by militia brigades are scrambling for control of the oil-producing country and the chaos has created havens for Islamist militants.

The Security Council met to discuss Libya after ISIS released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians. Egypt responded to the killings with air strikes on Monday on militant camps, training sites and arms storage areas in Libya.

Jordan told council members during closed door consultations after the meeting that it planned to circulate a draft resolution later on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

Adding jobs likely indicates additional demand for medical care / GETTY IMAGES

Healthcare spending on the rise again

Estimated jump. Healthcare spending during 2014 may mark the biggest jump since before the recession.

The national medical bill may be back to growing faster than gross domestic product. After five years of historically slow growth, new data show U.S. healthcare spending accelerated significantly in 2014.

The analysis, from the Altarum Institute research group and based on preliminary government data, shows health spending increasing by 5 percent last year, compared to 3.6 percent in 2013.

Economists don't know how much of the recent slowdown was due to the recession and how much came from real changes to the healthcare payments and delivery system. Millions of Americans lost their jobs — and their health insurance — in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis and recession. The Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010, introduced some measures to control healthcare costs, including penalties for hospitals whose Medicare patients are readmitted within 30 days of a hospital stay.

The jump in health spending for 2014 wasn't unexpected. Millions of Americans have now gained health insurance through the exchanges, expanded state Medicaid programs, and jobs created by employers.

"All three together are driving the coverage and presumably the spending," said Altarum senior economist Paul Hughes-Cromwick.

The federal government had anticipated that the spending slowdown would end in 2014, projecting total health care spending growth of 5.6 percent. Official numbers for 2014, tallying everything the government, employers, and individuals spend on healthcare, won't be published until the end of 2015. BLOOMBERG

Medication

10%

Medication makes up just about 10 percent of the total U.S. health care bill.

Healthcare

U.S. deciding whether to extend Obamacare enrollment

Americans who have started enrolling for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act can still sign up, and the government is weighing whether to open a special enrollment period for those who missed Sunday's deadline, the health secretary said Wednesday.

The Affordable Care Act requires most Americans to have health insurance or face a financial penalty. But some people may not realize they face a penalty for not having coverage until they file their tax returns in coming weeks.

Private health insurance

11.4M

So far, 11.4 million Americans have enrolled in private health insurance through Obamacare during the open enrollment period that ended on Sunday, according to the White House.

Health and Human Services will decide within the next two weeks whether to allow another special enrollment period for consumers, agency Secretary Sylvia Burwell said in response to a question about those consumers and the looming April 15 tax-filing deadline.

"We're going to analyze it, we're going to think about it, and we'll be back. And we will be back quickly on it," she said at a news conference. REUTERS

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Beagles. Four things you should know about them before you adopt

Handler William Alexander and Miss P "Best In Show Winner" of the 139th Westminster Dog Show, pose at The Empire State Building in New York City. / GETTY IMAGES

The winner of this year's Westminster Dog Show was an impossibly cute 4-year-old beagle named Miss P. Now, because of that adorable bitch, you've been looking at pictures of beagles all day instead of working. We don't blame you.

We also don't blame you for seriously considering just going out and snatching up a beagle puppy to call your own. Look how cute they are! Before you do that though, there four things that you should consider.

1 Beagles aren't the most soft-spoken breed.

"Beagles are quite vocal," Professor James Serpell of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine chuckled over the phone before giving his own impression of the hound's trademark high-pitched howl. Serpell explained that as hounds, beagles have been not been bred to work "in conjunction with humans," but rather to lead them on a trail and howl so they could be found.

Maybe you should reconsider getting a dog that's well known for it's bark, unless you really hate your neighbors. In that case, we say go for it! But you should also know...

2 Beagles are very difficult to train.

The lack of a "working with humans" trait is in part what makes beagles so difficult to train. "Some dogs were selected to work closely with people and typically those types of breeds are very trainable." Serpell said. "A classic example would be the border collie, which works very closely and in cooperation with a shepherd. Whereas hounds typically don't really care very much about what the hunter wants. They just do what they do. They just follow the trail and make a lot of noise so people can follow them. We don't really expect them to do tricks, we don't expect them to obey very much. They can be trained. They tend to be more tricky and more difficult to train than other dogs."

3 Your tiny apartment could be an issue.

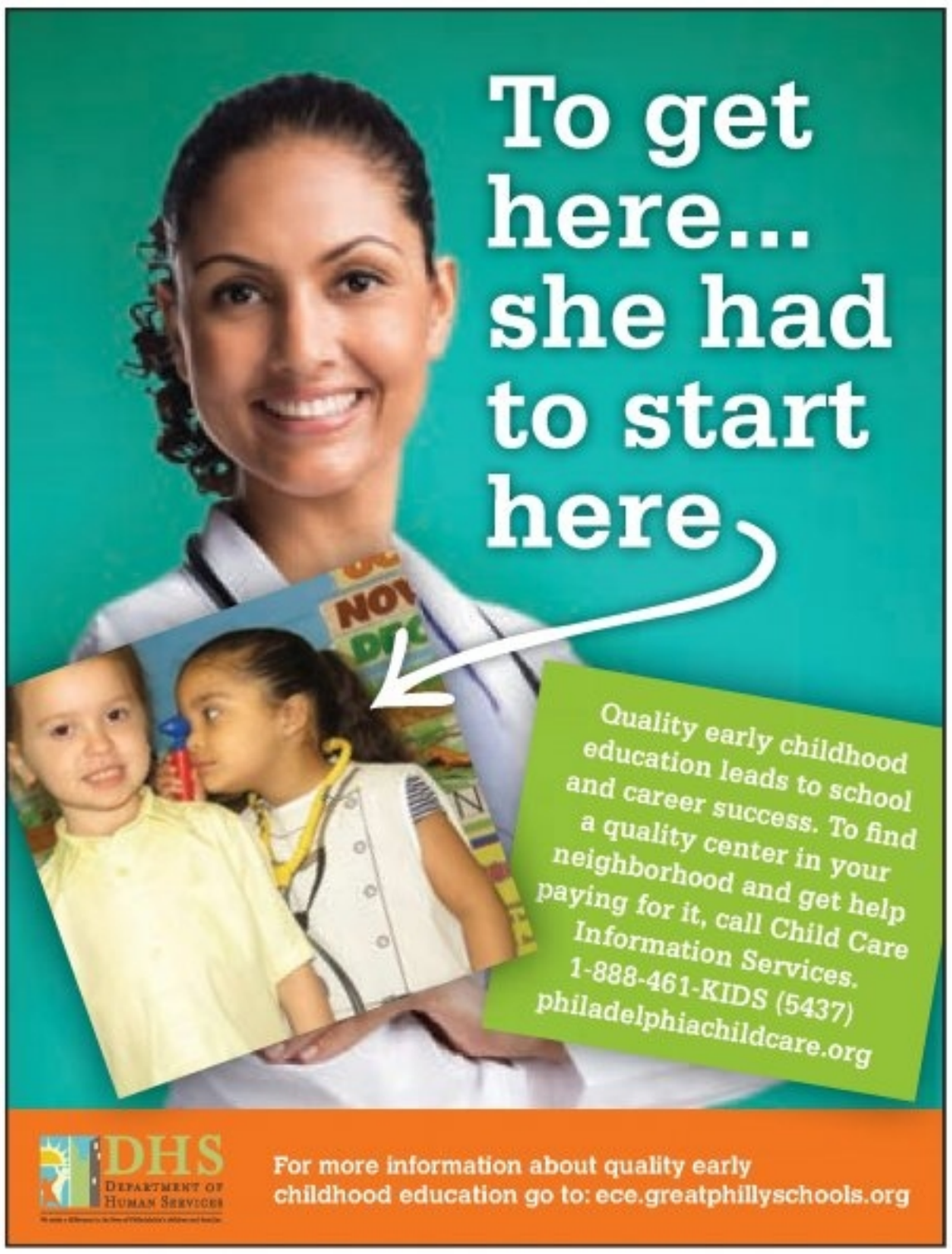
"I think one of the problems people have with dogs like beagles is they try and keep them in a small apartment and maybe take them once or twice a day for a walk around the block" Serpell said. "When dogs have more energy than they expend on a daily basis they find sort of other things to do to kind of occupy themselves and often those things are not what you want."

4 They might nip at children (especially when they're older).

"Some beagles can be a bit obstinate. They don't like being pushed around." Serpell said frankly. "They will sometimes snap. Especially when they get older. They may become kind of grumpy. You do hear quite a lot of stories about sort of grumpy older beagles snapping at kids and things like that, but I wouldn't say its a uniquely beagle characteristic."

So, if you have a lot of time, patience, real estate and no kids, then maybe a beagle is the right dog for you. Remember though not to buy your beagle pup from a pet store, but rather a licensed dog breeder.

MATT LEE, METRO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1 Pamela Anderson's divorce is getting messy

It's barely been a week since Pamela Anderson filed for divorce from husband, Rick Salomon, and already tensions are escalating. The former "Baywatch" star is reportedly ordering him to remove his two daughters, ages 16 and 18, from her Malibu home immediately. She also wants his Rottweiler, Bumblebee, removed from the premises, so you know she means business. Salomon, who is currently working in Las Vegas, reportedly "begged Pam to give him a week or two until they could find a new place," but Anderson isn't budging. Also, this is the second time Anderson has filed to end her marriage to Salomon, and they were also briefly married in 2007 before Anderson had it annulled. Maybe this time it will stick? I just hope Bumblebee's OK.

Rick Salomon and Pamela Anderson are seen in less turbulent times.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2 If you're an anti-vaxxer, you can't sit with Kristen Bell

The backlash against parents opposed to vaccinating their kids has a new celebrity face: "House of Lies" and "Veronica Mars" star Kristen Bell, who has two infant daughters at home. "When Lincoln was born [two years ago], the whooping cough epidemic was growing, and before she was 2 months old, we simply said, 'You have to get a whooping cough vaccination if you are going to hold our baby,'" Bell tells the Hollywood Reporter. And she and husband, Dax Shepard, aren't loosening those precautions a bit with newborn Delta. "It's a very simple logic," she explains. "I believe in trusting doctors, not know-it-alls."

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Patton Oswalt is unimpressed, Jimmy Kimmel is having trouble at home, John Cleese is miffed and Malin Akerman is looking for some privacy.

@pattonoswalt: The Three Stooges did BDSM better than 50 Shades of Grey.

@jimmykimmel: should I be offended when my wife asks me a question and, JUST as I begin to answer it, I realize she was asking Siri?

@JohnCleese: The Daily Mail still hasn't corrected the figure for the sales of my book.

@MalinAkerman: Sometimes a girl just wants a day to herself.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
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3 Matthew Perry almost missed 'Friends' for a terrible-sounding sitcom

Can you imagine "Friends" with someone other than Matthew Perry playing Chandler Bing? It nearly happened, all because Perry's horrible business manager at the time told him he had no money and needed a gig badly. And before the script for "Friends" — then called "Friends Like Us" — came along, he'd already signed up to star in a sitcom pilot called "LAX 2194," about "baggage handlers at the L.A. airport in the year 2194," he recently revealed to Seth Meyers. Luckily, everyone at the network quickly realized that "LAX 2194" was "the worst thing we've ever seen in our lives," so Perry was freed up to pursue more contemporary material.

Perry was almost not a "Friend."

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LOCAL COMIC GOES BIG, SLY FILMS AT VICTOR CAFE

Philly comedian **Shannon DeVido** is having a good month. First, the wheelchair-bound comic (she has spinal muscular atrophy) appeared on Comedy Central's "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore." Then, last weekend, she filmed her role in "Difficult People," an upcoming Hulu series produced by **Amy Poehler** and **Billy Eichner**. "It was incredibly fun," says DeVido. "We shot in a tiny jazz club near Washington Square Park in Manhattan. I would've died if Poehler was on set."

Radio 104.5 event DJ **Reed Streets** finally gets a crack at the airwaves. "The Saturday Night Mixtape with Reed Streets" will be Saturdays from 10 p.m. to midnight, starting Feb. 21. "I'm pretty stoked," says Streets. "It's only the third mix show in the entire country on a Clear Channel alt-rock station."

The hotly anticipated **BonChon** is opening its first Philly location tonight, at 10th and Cherry. Owner **David Taing** waited for the start of the Chinese New Year.

BOLDFACE
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Victor Cafe in South Philly got some new signage: It was renamed Adrian's, after Rocky's late wife, for the upcoming "Creed." / HUGHE DILLON

Celebrity sightings

- **Sylvester Stallone** and the crew from "Creed" have been spotted filming in warehouses and grocery stores in Port Richmond and the Elkins Estate in Elkins Park. Now they're back in familiar territory in South Philly. Stallone dined at **Le Virtu**, then filmed at **Victor Cafe**. The opera-themed eatery was re-named Adrian's.
- For the record, **Stallone** turned the restaurant into Adrian's before: In 2006, he filmed parts of "Rocky Balboa" there. Call sheets have Stallone and company doing street scenes around Juniper, Dickinson and Reed, as well as back at Victor's, through today.
- Comedian and E!'s "Fashion Police" host **Kathy Griffin** was spied strolling through Midtown Village and dining at **Barbuzzo** over the weekend.

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‘Two and a Half Men’ says goodbye

Interview. Original cast member Jon Cryer shares what he’ll miss about playing Alan.

“Two and a Half Men” has had a few incarnations over its run. The Chuck Lorre show started out with brothers Charlie and Alan and Alan’s son Jake, but only Alan remains. After 12 years on the air, the show signs off with an hourlong finale. We talked to the man who’s been through it all, Jon Cryer.

What will you miss most about Alan?
What the writers got about me early on was that I was a guy who wanted some semblance of dignity, but I just kept letting myself down in that respect. That they found almost every facet of every possible situation where that could happen has been great. And I think they discovered something for me as a performer that I didn’t know was what I do, so I will miss that. And it will be interesting to try and find new characters that have the same sort of thing. I don’t know that there’s any character I’m going to want to play for 12 years again. This has been crazy.

Next up for you is the your memoir, right?
I have a book coming out this April called, “So That Happened.” It’s about having been in the business from when I was 18. It started out weird, and got even weirder.

You’ve had one of the weirder careers in show business.
I have. But it’s been fun. And certainly interesting, and I’ve learned a lot.

Any plans for the future?
One of the ways that I’ve been able to handle the weirdness of my career is I just don’t picture ahead of time where I’m going to be or what I’m going to do. Because as an actor you’re not in any real kind of control of this thing anyway, so you might as well be a blank slate and let life happen to you.

THE “TWO AND A HALF MEN” FINALE IS ON TONIGHT AT 9 ON CBS. / MICHAEL YARISH, WARNER BROTHERS

Mementos

Do you wish you’d taken anything from the set?

When Steven Tyler guested, they had to put his one line on a gigantic cue card because he could not get his one line. The line was, “There’s a lot of the ’70s I don’t remember.” That was it! It’s not a long line. And for years, it was posted up, and that was the one thing I had my eye on, and then it disappeared this year. Somebody got to it before me.

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Flights of fancy

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New day at ODLR

Peter Copping made his debut at Oscar de la Renta on Tuesday, and front-row stars Taylor Swift and Karlie Kloss approved. "Beautiful," the supermodel whispered to her BFF as a strapless blue number went by. As for the ladies who lunch — Oscar's bread and butter — they can rest easy. Ladylike skirt suits, dainty day dresses and elegant furs (in jaunty shades of red) paid respect to the late designer without looking too slavish. But Copping really let loose with the evening wear, with bold prints, unlined lace bodices and exuberant ruffles giving this lovely, considered collection a youthful edge. RL

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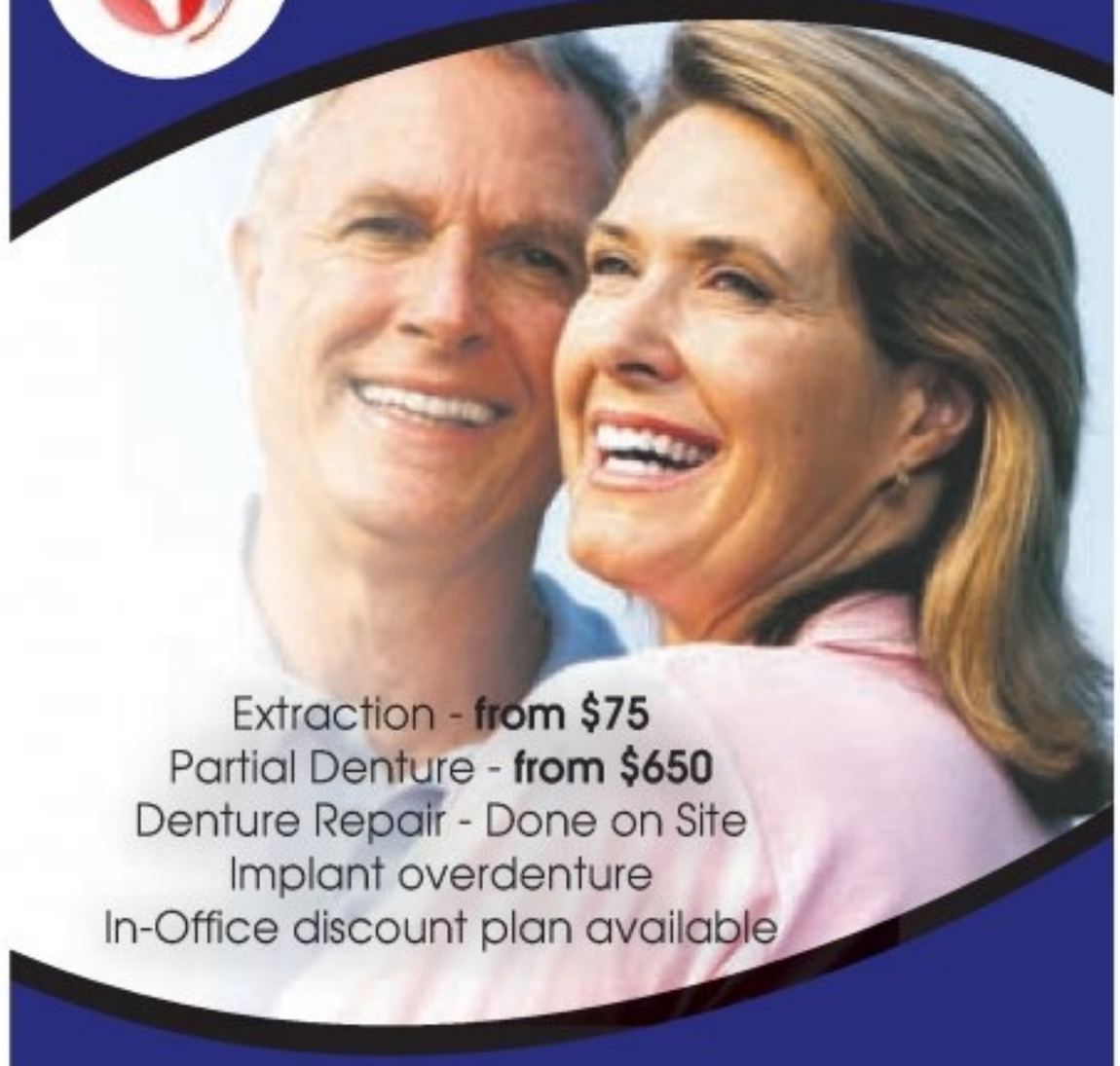
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Reviews

Michael Kors

Opposites attract, and Michael Kors' show proved just that. The designer mashed-up traditional tweed with feminine feather embroidery and bedazzled a silky pajama set for a night on the town. Despite such dueling delights Kors proved once again that what he's best at is classic American sportswear: ultra-wearable luxe knits in earthy tones, head-master-at-a-prep-school checkered coats and slouchy mannish wool trousers. They made us long for colder weather, and with our current temps, that's saying a lot.

TINA CHADHA

Diesel Back Gold

Let's face it: The Diesel customer isn't going to swap her tough leather jackets and black denim for shag coats and boho floral dresses. But designer Andreas Melbostad did manage to sneak some of the season's biggest trends into the brand's tried-and-true formula. Knit turtlenecks toughened up with grommets, brocade cut into tight cigarette pants and black lace slips peeking from under badass leather pleated minis or oversized sweaters.

RAQUEL LANERI

Narciso Rodriguez

For Fall, Narciso Rodriguez refined his signature minimalism, elongating and flattening his silhouette: his crepe flared trousers and sweeping sleeveless coats nearly grazed the floor, while stretchy knit bustiers layered over sheer bodysuits gave the effect of two-dimensional planes on top. Most of the ensembles stuck to modernist black and white, but when Rodriguez did use color, he really made it sing, combining rich plum with cool spearmint, or a golden saffron with blush pink. Breathtaking. RL

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The Path to Possibilities

‘Heartbreak feels like it will last forever’

Interview. Leighton Meester’s new album isn’t party pop. It’s folkie, raw emotion.

Leighton Meester went through her fair share of heartbreak before finding her happily ever after with actor Adam Brody. / PROVIDED

If you go

Leighton Meester

Thursday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.
Trocadero Theatre
1003 Arch St., 215-922-LIVE
$22
www.thetroc.com

Leighton Meester might have been an teen icon, but her past life as Blair Waldorf wasn’t what made iconic, singer-songwriter producer Jeff Trot want to team up with her. Meester’s put serious effort into her career as a musician, perfecting her voice and penning songs that range from the twangy title track off her new album “Heartstrings” to the doo-wop-y song, “LA.”

Starting young

“Whenever I was trying to amuse myself, I’d always write little poems or stories. I remember being 7 and writing my own versions of songs,” the 28-year-old Texan recalls. “It’s always been something that’s fun for me. That changed in my early 20s when I started looking at different music. Now, it’s a connective tissue between my experiences and acceptance and expressing them.”

Meester grew up on the category’s classics — Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Paul Simon, Kate Bush — and their personal, heartfelt tone helped inspire her own songwriting process. “[My songs] are very much autobiographical, but don’t assume they’re literal,” Meester says.

Finding her vulnerability

As the album title implies, “Heartstrings” is about heartache, as Meester puts it: “Both the good and bad kind. “It’s very much an emotional record,” she adds, “and definitely connected with my vulnerability and being sensitive, and needing a release. At the same time, there’s the sense of laughter and being sarcastic in those less vulnerable moments. Having your heart broken is the most growing I’ve ever done; it’s the most learning I’ve ever done. Then, you move past it.”

LINDA LABAN
@MetroPhilly
linda.laban@metro.us

Silver lining

Why break up songs are popular

Meester muses on why heartache is a popular topic: “Pain from love is difficult to describe and difficult to release in words. If you can find a way, it becomes universal. Heartache is like a song. It’s there for a brief moment, but it feels like it will never end, and is so permanent. A song is a flash of a moment that feels like a roller-coaster.”

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Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

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HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY/TOR JOHNSON

MARC CLERY

Dover, Delaware: Kid-friendly getaway

Hands-on fun can be had at museums and attractions in and around the city.

Orchid Extravaganza at Longwood Gardens

A glorious display is sure to brighten up a dull winter's day.

CAROL DEGIUSEPPI

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

© ISLAND VISITORS BUREAU/ETHAN TWEEDIE

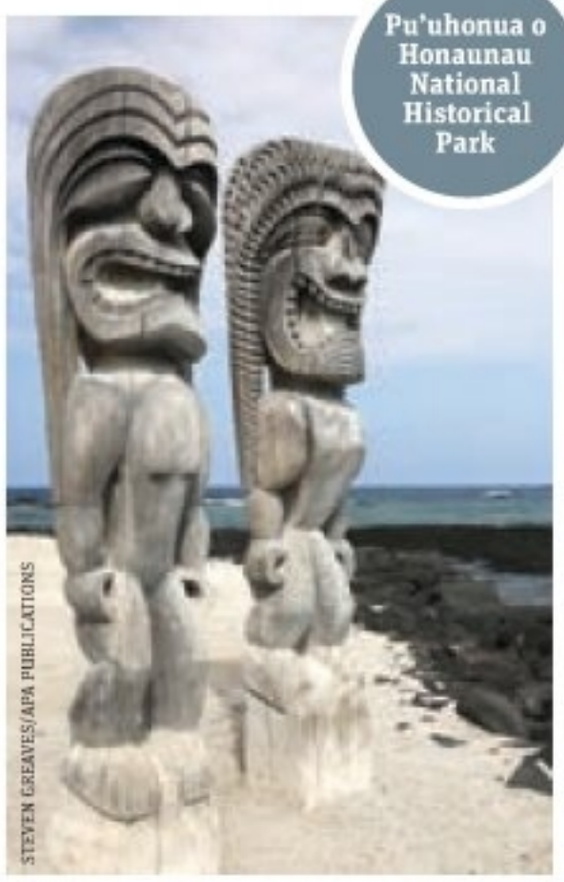
There aren't many places on Earth where you can see new land being born, but Hawaii is one of them.

The Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is a national park like no other in the U.S., and one of the island's big attractions beyond its beaches.

It has not one, but two active volcanoes: Kilauea, is said to be the most active volcano in the world, while Mauna Loa is the biggest volcano on the face of the earth.

Fortunately for visitors, both volcanoes are considered fairly benign compared to some others elsewhere in the world. But this wasn't always the case. The islanders regard Kilauea as the home of Pele, the volcano goddess, and in 1790 a group of warriors offering gifts to Pele were killed during a sudden, violent eruption. You can still see their footprints in the lava rock.

Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park



STEVEN GREAVES/APA PUBLICATIONS

Today you can safely hike to the top of Mauna Loa on one of numerous hiking trails in the park.

If you want to see the active Kilauea volcano too, you should allow at least a day for a visit. The park covers 323,431 acres and it takes time to get to Kilauea.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park

HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY/DANA EDMUNDS

The reward is a chance to see the longest continuously erupting volcano in the world — it has been constantly active since 1983.

Stop at the Visitor Center first to learn what the current activity is like and where the action is. There are geologists on hand to answer questions. From there you can join the Crater Rim Drive, an 11-mile route through some of the most startlingly unique scenery in the Pacific Ocean.

The park isn't all about volcanic rock, however. It also has an area of desert, lush mist-filled rain forests harboring giant ferns, black sand beaches and even snow on Mauna Loa's 13,679-foot summit.

INSIGHT GUIDES | MIKE GERRARD AND DONNA DAILEY

Haleakala National Park

HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY/TOR JOHNSON

Hawaii's other national parks

Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park

This religious site on Hawaii's west coast, once a refuge for criminals seeking forgiveness and the chance to reform, is now a living museum of ancient Hawaiian laws and rituals.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park

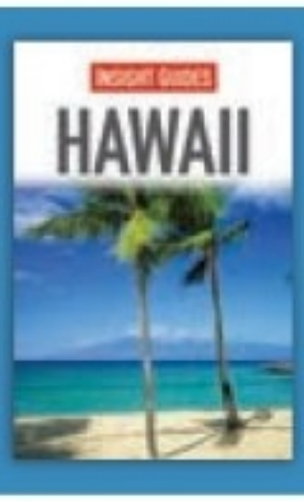
On the island of Molokai, this former colony for those suffering from leprosy requires a permit to visit, with only 100 issued each day, making it a truly special experience.

Haleakala National Park

This Maui park's main feature is the seven-mile-wide volcanic crater, best seen at sunrise and sunset, but it also shelters endangered endemic wildlife such as the nene, or Hawaiian goose, the world's rarest goose.

Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park

On the west coast of Hawaii, Kaloko-Honokohau has walking trails and ancient fishponds, plus a wetland area where you'll find native wildlife.



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Dover, Delaware: Kid-friendly getaway

With plenty of indoor and outdoor activities, Dover is a great escape for snow-weary, cabin-fevered families.

Heritage Park walking tour

KENT COUNTY TOURISM

Schwartz Center

VITAL THEATRE COMPANY

The Delaware Agriculture Museum and Village (AgriculturalMuseum.org) has a farmhouse-themed play area where kids can pretend to milk a cow. Outside, they can meet other barnyard animals. Learn where the phrase "put a sock in it" came from at the Johnson Victrola Museum. Dozens of the wind-up machines are cranked and play 78 RPM classics.

At the Air Mobility Command Museum (AMCmuseum.org) at Dover Air Force Base, kids can explore an old control tower while listening to live transmissions as planes take off and land. The jet that served as Air Force Two until 2011 is on display. The air base is open for tours the third Saturday of every month.

Costumed guides lead free walking tours through Heritage Park in Dover.

Outside, visitors can explore coastal marshland at St Jones Reserve. At the Center for Estuarine Studies at the Reserve, there's the chance to meet a camera-hogging diamondback turtle and Stanley the Sturgeon. A two-mile nature walk goes through the tidal marshes — look for raccoon tracks on the boardwalk and deer in the brush.

Dover's governmental hub forms Heritage Park, a "museum without boundaries." The daily free walking tours are filled with history from 1777 to the present, delivered by costumed guides. The restored buildings on Loockerman Street are at the center of Dover's commercial district; you'll find lots of restaurants and shops here. Delaware has no sales tax, so souvenirs are a bargain.

Johnson Victrola Museum

KENT COUNTY TOURISM

The Schwartz Center (SchwartzCenter.com) features performances for kids in February and March, including "Charlotte's Web" and a "Pirates of the Caribbean" ballet. The Biggs Museum of American Art (BiggsMuseum.org) has a crafting and dress-up room. Or strap on roller skates or roller blades at the Dover Skating Center (DoverSkate.com).

Both VisitDover.com and Visit Delaware.com have guides for hotels, dining and other needs.

INSIGHT GUIDES | FRAN SEVERN

Orchid Extravaganza at Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens

CAROL DEGIUSEPPI

Winter is the peak blooming season for orchids, and they're in all their glory at this annual festival in Kennett Square.

Outside it may be gloomy and gray, but it's all color, fragrance and elegant displays at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square. Some 5,000 exotic and fragile orchids are arranged in baskets, on garden arches, beside a waterfall and in a "meadow," all inside a four-acre conservatory.

Thousands of exotic, fragrant orchids are arranged in the conservatory.

Many of the orchids are familiar to gardeners, but there are examples of rare and hard-to-grow varieties. Staff select and arrange blooms from Longwood's five grow houses every day, so the vibrant colors and sweet scent never fade.

The Extravaganza runs through March 29. Admission is with timed tickets, which also grant access to the rest of Longwood's conservatories and grounds. While tickets can be purchased at the door, they may sell out on any given day, so order online at Tickets.LongwoodGardens.org to guarantee admission.

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This app focuses on relationships, not hookups

Apps. SCRUFF rolls out a feature for men looking for something more serious.

A popular gay app says it wants to make finding lasting love easier. / ISTOCK

Log on to one of the many, gay-dating apps available for a smartphone and you'll see an ocean of torsos and biceps. It's no surprise that these apps have developed a reputation for being pretty much just for sex.

SCRUFF, one of the most popular apps on the market is launching a new feature called "SCRUFF Match" that will match men who are looking for relationships with other like-minded individuals.

"We did a survey of our members late last year and found that two-thirds of them used SCRUFF for dates or for chat," the company's CEO and co-founder Eric Silverberg says. "We've been hearing from our members who are really looking for dates or relationships that they wanted an easier way to do it."

SCRUFF Match is the company's solution. With the new feature, users will be able to go through a series of cards featuring men, who both have a clear face picture and specifically state they are looking for a relationship.

"The most important feature, frankly of any service in the dating world is the guys that are there. Whether they're geo location-based apps, they're websites, or they're personal ads, ultimately the [main] feature is the guys," Silverberg says. "What makes SCRUFF Match in particular different, is we are essentially creating a space for gay guys who are specifically interested in dates and relationships and we're saying this is a space for you."

SCRUFF Match is creating a unique space among gay dating apps. While others provide the option of filtering for men looking for a relationship, they don't feel as specific as SCRUFF Match.

Going steady

A more serious search

And for those men who may feel disillusioned by gay dating apps? "I think SCRUFF Match, by creating a space for guys specifically who are looking for dates or relationships, is going to provide a different enough experience that, hopefully, will be able to reach a lot of those people who maybe weren't as attracted to or didn't find the kind of community they were looking for on apps as they have existed to this day."

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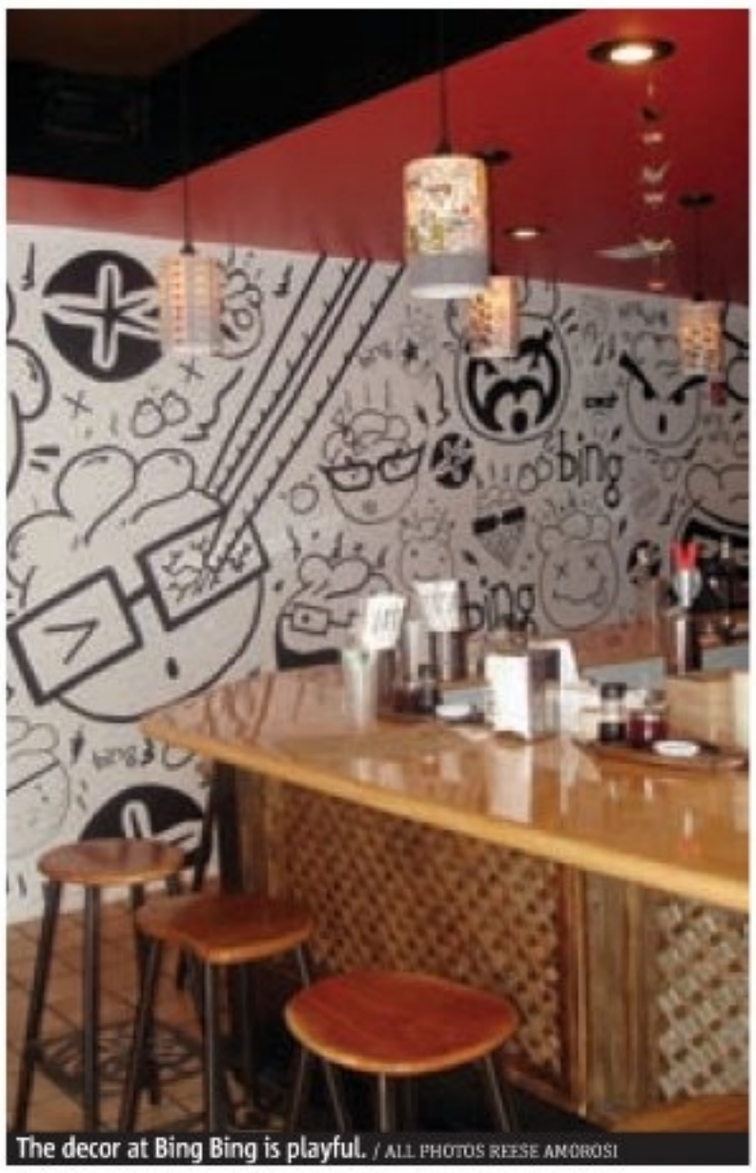
Where to eat dim sum


The decor at Bing Bing is playful. / ALL PHOTOS REESE AMOROSI

Beyond Chinatown. The new Bing Bing Dim Sum on East Passyunk joins the must-try list.

Dim sum has long been the province of Chinatown restaurant staples like Imperial Inn, Ocean Garden and Dim Sum Garden. But a few new spots are angling for customers craving the traditional tapas-like meal, where diners choose from small plates or steamer baskets of Cantonese food wheeled around on rolling carts.

I Green Dim Sum Hand Drawn Noodle opened in Chinatown at 10th and Arch over the summer, and it's about to be joined by Nom Wah Tea Parlor, opening this month at 218 N. 13th St., one block north of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Nom Wah is the Philly outpost of a 95-year-old New York spot that focuses on tradition: think bean curd skin rolls and roast pork buns.

Dumplings are on the menu at Bing Bing Dim Sum.

On the opposite end of the spectrum there's Bing Bing Dim Sum, which opened on East Passyunk Avenue on Monday. It's from Shawn Darragh and Ben Puchowitz, known for their twists on classic Asian fare at Cheu Noodle Bar in Washington Square West.

Expect gluten-free potato dumplings that taste like pierogies; turnip cakes made with matzo meal and bonito flakes; spicy lamb ribs with cucumber pickles; and a pan-fried bao with something you'll rarely see on any Asian menu: pastrami.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

my city. now. metro

Quoted

"Just like with Cheu, where we saw that there was a void in ramen noodle spots, we found that there weren't any new dim sum places," Shawn Darragh says of the Bing Bing concept.

Runway

See designer collections at Philly Fashion Week

Philly's Fashion Week is more of a homegrown affair than its counterparts this month and next in New York, Paris, Milan and London — but hey, it's ours.

This is the 10th year for the local Fashion Week, which culminates in a couture runway show. As participating designer Thomas Lavone put it, "I chose to show in Philadelphia instead of New York after seeing that the caliber of models and staff exceeded my expectations."

On Thursday night see what's swank for the dudes at the Luxe Men's Wear Show at the Ritz-Carlton on Broad Street. The ready-to-wear runway show, Friday at the Crane Arts Building (1400 N. American St.), includes designs from "Project Runway" contestant Ken Laurence.

Saturday, head back to Crane Arts for the couture show.

Tickets are at www.phillyfashionweek.org.

RACHEL VIGODA

MICHAEL THOMAS

James Beard

Chef awards

Several Philly names made the list of James Beard Foundation Restaurant and Chef Award semifinalists, announced yesterday. The final round of nominees will be revealed March 24.

Best new restaurant:
Abe Fisher
Townsend

Outstanding bar program:
The Franklin Mortgage & Investment Co.

Outstanding chef:
Michael Solomonov, Zahav
Marc Vetri, Vetri

Outstanding pastry chef:
Kate Jacoby, Vedge

Outstanding restaurant:
Fork

Outstanding restaurateur:
Stephen Starr, Starr Restaurants

Outstanding wine, spirits or beer professional:
Tom Peters, Monks Cafe
Steve Wildy, Vetri Family

Rising star chef of the year:
Alex Bois, High Street on Market
Jon Nodler, a.kitchen

Best chef, Mid-Atlantic:
Pierre Calmels, Bibou
Joe Cicala, Le Virtu
Nicholas Elmi, Laurel
Rich Landau, Vedge
Konstantinos Pitsillides, Kanella
Greg Vernick, Vernick Food & Drink

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DRINK

Bierfest

**Saturday, 2 to 5:30 p.m.
German Society of Philadelphia
611 Spring Garden St.
$20-$75, 215-627-2332
german-society-of-pennsylvania.ticketleap.com**
The German Society of Philadelphia hosts its fourth annual Bierfest — and that's spelled correctly, because we're talking about German beer here, with a fine local variety of lagers, weizens and bocks on tap. There's also entertainment from the Philly Roller Girls, rock 'n' roll polka from Polkadelphia, a little corner called the Beer and Cheese Cave and other delights.

GOING OUT

Lunar New Year Celebration

**Friday, 6 p.m.
International House
3701 Chestnut St.
$5-$12, 215-387-5125
www.ihousephilly.org**
International House hosts this smorgasbord of traditional Chinese food, music and dance, celebrating the Year of the Sheep, or the Goat or the Ram — depends on who you ask. But the humble animal is supposed to preside over a calm, productive lunar cycle, and is associated with the number eight, said to be auspicious in Chinese numerology.

ART

PROVIDED

Lost Ice: What the Birds Saw

**Through March 31
Fairmount Water Works
640 Waterworks Dr.
Free, 215-685-0723
www.fairmountworks.com**
This four-panel painting by local artist Pamela Tudor is a minimal but powerful comic strip-like sequence imagining a bird's eye view (literally) of rapidly melting ice near the North Pole. Tudor cuts through the tedious "debate" around global warming's causes — all our bird knows is that the ice is melting, fast. And what, if anything, will we do?

THEATER

SHAWN MAY

'The Metamorphosis'

**Through March 1, Sedgwick Theater, 7137 Germantown Ave., Mt. Airy $27-$34, 866-811-4111
www.quintessencetheatre.org**
Quintessence Theater Group presents Steven Berkoff's adaptation of Franz Kafka's most popular story, a surreal nightmare that still manages to be a little funny. Gregor Samsa, a regular man, wakes up one day to find he's been transformed into a giant bug — no explanation offered, and none ever comes. What's a giant bug to do? And why doesn't his family seem to care?

DANCE

PROVIDED

'The Book of Esther: The Journey of Queen Vashti and Queen Esther'

Sunday, 2 p.m., Gershman Y, 401 S. Broad St. $15-$20, 215-545-4400 www.gershmany.org
It's rare to hear a story from the Bible described as progressive, but many scholars have read proto-feminist elements in the Book of Esther, with its strong female figures Vashti and Esther. That's the tack taken by New York's Ariel Rivka Dance for this show, telling the story, which lies at the root of the Jewish festival Purim, with an all-female cast. / PROVIDED

Linda Sosangelis: Opulence

**Through March 8
Twenty-Two Gallery
236 S. 22nd St.
Free, 215-772-1911
www.twenty-twogallery.com**
In these paintings, artist Linda Sosangelis looks back to the age of Orientalism, the Western fascination with Eastern culture that raged in the 19th century. The movement may not have been free of cultural bias, but Sosangelis' paintings are concerned simply with the beauty of their images, whose seductive magnetism she reproduces through the meticulous lens of the 17th century Dutch masters.

PROVIDED

Mahler's Fourth

**Sunday and Monday
Kimmel Center
300 S. Broad St.
$24-$81, 215-893-1999
www.kimmelcenter.org**
Dirk Brosse leads the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia through Schoenberg's poetry-inspired breakthrough work "Verklarte Nacht" ("Transfigured Night") and a chamber-sized arrangement of Mahler's fourth symphony, featuring soprano Chloe Olivia Moore, singing "Das himmlische Leben" ("This Heavenly Life"), the German folk song Mahler incorporated into the final movement, in which a child imagines Heaven.

DANCE

BalletX Winter Series 2015

**Through Sunday
Wilma Theater
265 S Broad St.
$25-$45, 215-546-7824
www.wilmatheater.org**
BalletX performs an diverse set of works, including Spanish choreographer Cayetano Soto's "Malasangre," a tribute to the Cuban singer La Lupe; Val Caniparoli's "Triptychm," which explores the before, during and after of war; and a new work by Filipino-American choreographer Norbert De La Cruz III. All are premieres for the company.

MUSIC

Songwriters in the Round: Happy Birthday Kurt Cobain

**Friday, 8 p.m.
Tin Angel
20 S. Second St.
$10-$12, 21+, 215-928-0978
www.rockonphilly.com**
If Kurt Cobain were still with us, the reluctant King of Grunge would be 48 this Friday, which ought to make those who came of age in the '90s feel pretty old. Well, at least the songs never age! Five musicians will pay tribute to Cobain's formidable legacy at this show.

BOOKS

Adrienne Shaw

**Thursday, 6 p.m.
Penn Bookstore
3601 Walnut St.
Free, 215-898-7595
www.upenn.bncollege.com**
As the debates over misogyny in video games, collectively called "Gamergate," rage on, author Adrienne Shaw takes a more universal perspective in her book "Gaming at the Edge," exploring how marginalized groups within the gaming community relate to their status and the way they're represented, both in games and the media at large.

MATTHEW DINARO

Horoscope

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You can achieve financial security. If you set up a savings plan, you will gain benefits quicker than you anticipate. Break bad habits.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 Put the brakes on the emotional roller coaster you are riding. Find something encouraging in every situation you face.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20 Check out domestic products or services that could reduce your workload or increase your comfort level. Purge unwanted items and give them to the needy.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21 Accept an unexpected invitation to a social event if you want to meet someone who could influence your future. Offer insight.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20 Don't get stressed out over trivial matters. Pay close attention when operating machinery or hazardous equipment.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22 Find out more about your family background or community. Visit a library, scan social media or talk with people who have knowledge regarding your past.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 It's easy to fall into bad habits for the sake of convenience. Put more effort into nutrition and diet if you want to look and feel great.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A close confidant will help provide you with a different perspective on a troubling issue. Family members will be oversensitive, so be encouraging.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Don't overlook the importance of getting along with your peers. Tension will be manageable if you are respectful.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You have been working too hard. Take time out and visit friends, or venture somewhere out of the ordinary.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Someone will be upset or offended by something you say or do. Proceed with caution and choose your words wisely to avoid a scene.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You are viewed as a valued friend and important ally. Partnerships and collaborative efforts will go smoothly today, due to your special insights. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

			2				4	6
5	6	2					8	
7							5	
3					9		6	1
	7		3		5		2	
1	9		4					3
	4							2
	5					8	3	4
8	1				2			

				4	7	8		
		1	3				6	
5				1	8		2	9
7				6		3		
	4						7	
		8		3				6
6	8		4	2				5
	1				6	2		
		3	1	7				

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Diet choices best left to doctors

Re: 'Bible doesn't like vegans' (Metro, Feb. 18) Kudos to fellow Metro reader Scott Perry. Mr. Perry summed up nicely what I was thinking. I am what former President George H. W. Bush might have called a "kinder, gentler atheist." I think as a lyrical tome and spiritual guide the Bible makes for excellent reading, but as a companion text for scientific medical guidance, not so much. I do not completely agree with Mr. Perry's characterization of the Bible as an "inconsistent, inaccurate collection of Bronze Age folk tales." However, I do believe that all attempts in recorded history to reconcile faith and reason have failed and will continue to do so because faith and reason are by their very definition irreconcilable. Giving up meat for Lent, or for good, may have health benefits, but one should consult a physician, not a clergyman about the choice.
LARRY FOWLER, VIA EMAIL

Re: 'Bible doesn't like vegans' (Metro, Feb. 18) The reader writes in part: Romans 14: "one person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables."

The Bible says: Romans 14:2 "One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables."

This simply means it is the belief of a person and has nothing to do with what God believes or "advocates" for.
JUNE, VIA EMAIL

Visit us online at **Metro.us.**

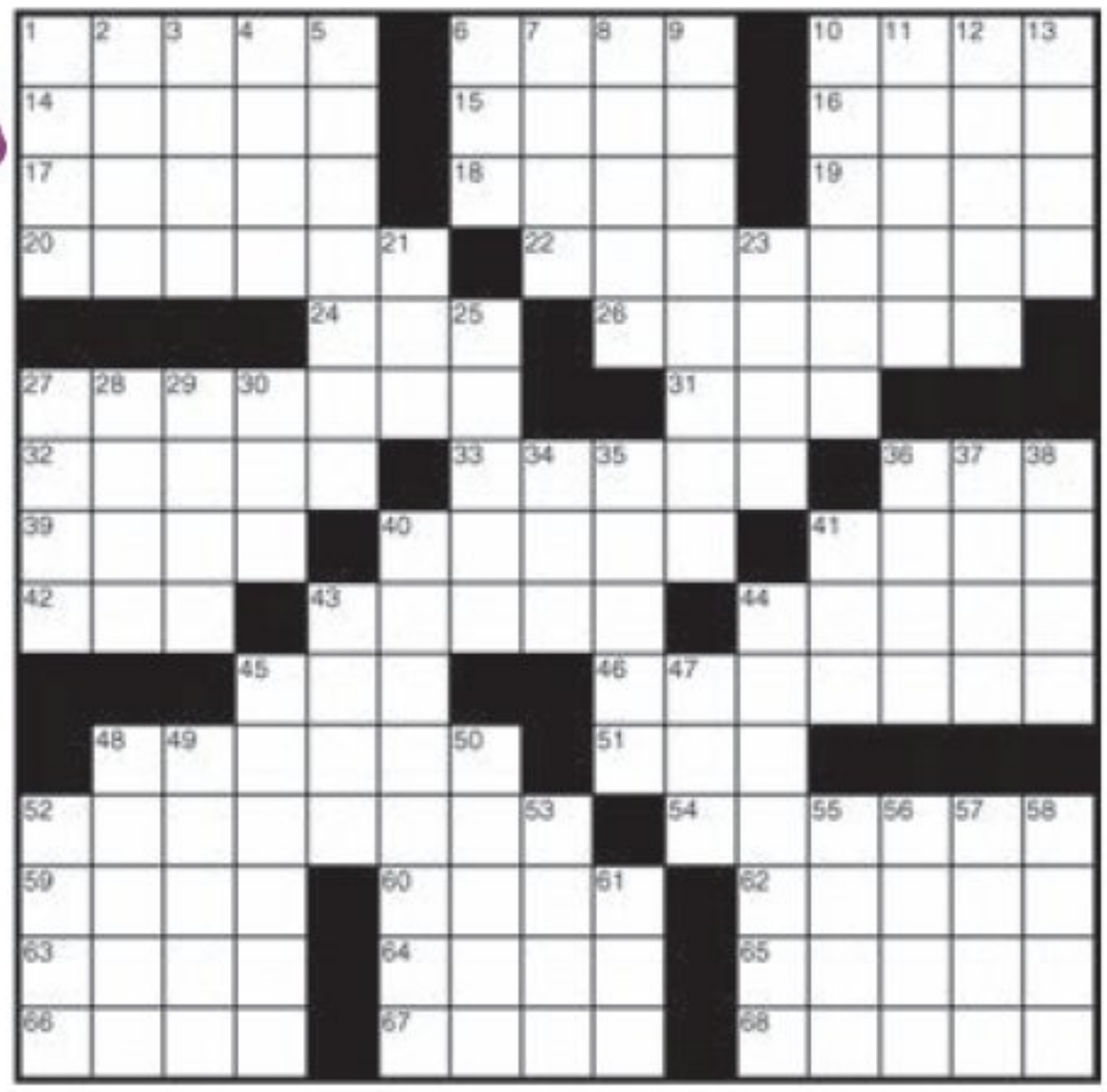
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

Crossword

Across
1 Pier
6 The "elephant boy"
10 Reformers' targets
14 Video-game pioneer
15 Musical Campbell
16 Finger's end
17 Louis XVI's wife
18 Freight weights
19 Adjust a guitar
20 Flour or sugar
22 Ignored
24 Drab color
26 Opened wide
27 Greenhouse
31 Rover's doc
32 In the future
33 Cold-aged beer
36 Endorse
39 Alehouses
40 Roused up
41 Verne captain
42 Codgers' queries
43 Echolocation device
44 Zeus' shield
45 Pair
46 Good-luck bringers
48 Fable enders
51 Chem. or biol.
52 Devious type
54 Riddle
59 Tsp. and oz.
60 Rainbow goddess
62 Figure of speech
63 OK
64 Freud's concerns
65 "48 Hrs." lead
66 Catch sight of
67 Nerve network
68 Ms. DeGeneres

Down
1 Crams in
2 Iowa, to Jacques
3 Fictional plantation
4 Vacation jaunt
5 Ceded
6 PFC boss
7 Matty — of baseball
8 Violin-playing comedian
9 Stubbly
10 Purpose
11 Magna cum —
12 Like a tablet
13 Musher's vehicle
21 Italy's cont.
23 Basin companion
25 Chute material
27 Ponytail site
28 "No way!" (hyph.)
29 Soldiers in gray
30 Airline to Stockholm
34 Rap-sheet letters
35 Microbes
36 Block brand
37 Give off heat
38 Easy pitch
40 Fuzzier
41 Toshiba rival
43 Festoon
44 Totally stupid
45 Sleazy
47 Stretchy bandage
48 Says with gestures
49 Tavern sign (2 wds.)
50 Suit material
52 Dunaway of film
53 Mob scene
55 Elvis, to some
56 Fish organ
57 Dust particle
58 "Right on!"
61 Weathervane dir.

Yesterday's answer



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3 SPORTS

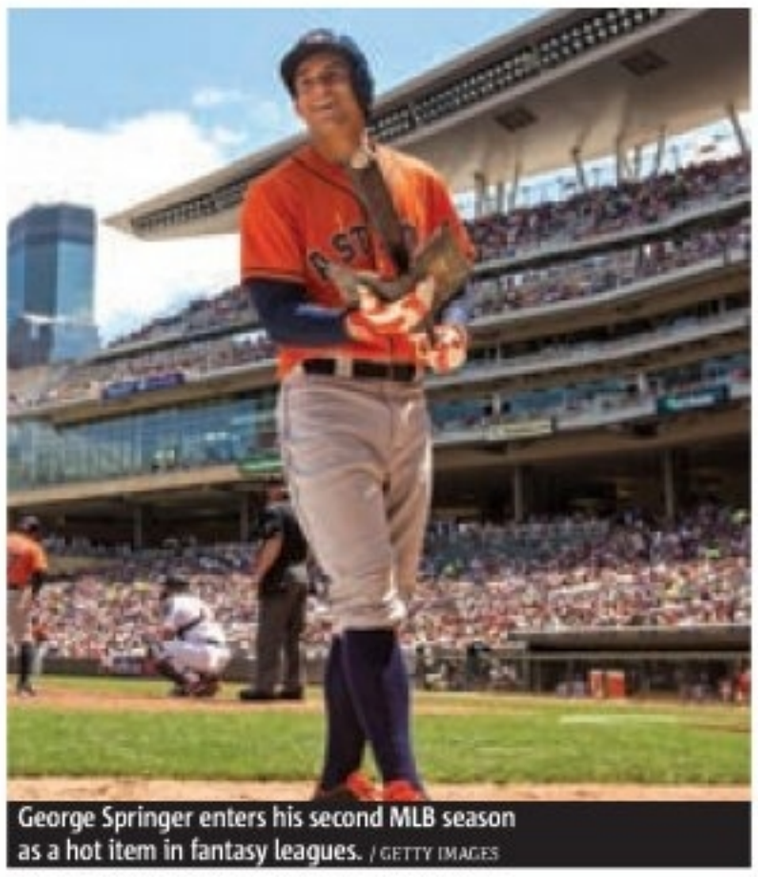
Hamels unhappy

Phils ace wants out

In an interview with USA Today after arriving at spring training, Phillies ace Cole Hamels dropped a bombshell: "I just want to win. That's all. That's all any competitor wants. And I know it's not going to happen here. This isn't what I expected. It's not what the Phillies expected, either. But it's reality."

FANTASY BASEBALL: DON'T FORGET THE YOUNG GUNS

It's too late on Anthony Rendon, Jose Altuve and Nolan Arenado. Those youngsters have already broken out, meaning we'll have to pay more than fair market value to land them. The key to your fantasy baseball draft will be finding the next crop of players on the verge of making a leap. We can go hunting for these guys in the middle rounds, after we've secured safer assets early on. Here are 2015's breakout candidates:



George Springer enters his second MLB season as a hot item in fantasy leagues. / GETTY IMAGES

Spring forward

Everyone in your league knows of George Springer after he hit 20 homers in 78 games as a rookie last year. Not everyone will realize how good he can be as he only stole five bases and hit .231. As a minor leaguer in 2013, the Astros right fielder hit 37 homers and stole 45 bases — part of 87 steals in 287 games. He was also a .302 hitter in the minors, giving us hope he can raise his big-league average closer to .260 despite all the strikeouts. Springer is worth taking in the fourth round of drafts so we can get in early on a future superstar.

Rocky road

Drew Pomeranz was a highly-touted prospect coming out of Ole Miss in 2010 and went fifth overall to the Indians. Unfortunately for him, he was traded to starting pitcher hell (Colorado) in 2011 as part of the Ubaldo Jimenez trade. Pomeranz was predictably a fantasy liability during his two-plus years in the Mile High city, posting a 5.20 ERA across 136 2/3 innings. But he was set free last year when the A's traded for him and he rewarded their faith by going 5-4 with a 2.35 ERA. Now set for a full season in the pitcher-friendly AL West, Pomeranz is a fine mid-range fantasy starter.

Joc strapped

Now that Matt Kemp is in San Diego, Joc Pederson will have every chance to win the Dodgers' starting gig in center this spring. If he does it, he'll be one of the league's best sleepers. Pederson dominated Triple-A last season, hitting .303 with 33 homers and 30 steals – flashing his versatility and plus five-tool ability. Even if Pederson scuffles in the spring, his ability to play all three outfield spots and run the bases will lead to playing time. He's a rookie to watch very closely come March.

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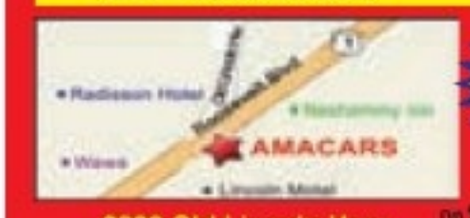

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Who are the Flyers best defensemen of all time?

The Flyers' sluggish defense is struggling, and with Eric Desjardins returning to be honored by induction into the team's Hall of Fame, fans are probably nostalgic for one of these five Philly greats. **ERIC GOLDSTEIN**

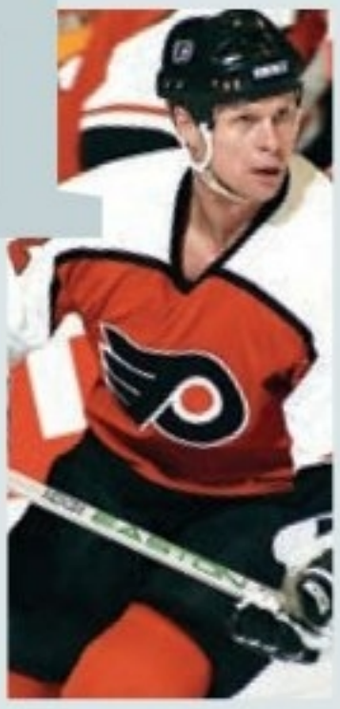
The Philadelphia Flyers are honoring one of the best defensemen in team history on Thursday night prior to facing the Buffalo Sabres as Eric Desjardins will be inducted into the organization's Hall of Fame.

While he is clearly one of the best, where does Desjardins rank all time in club history?

Need a hint? It's pretty high. With Desjardins' name being added to the rafters above, it's as good of an excuse as ever to come up with a list.

Here is Metro's choice for the top five Flyers defensemen of all time.

1 Mark Howe



The complete package, the 2001 Flyers Hall inductee is one of the best defensemen in NHL history. The son of legend Gordie Howe, he still holds the club record for most points in a single season with 82 (24 goals, 58 assists) and finished his 10-year career in Philly with 480 points and a plus-349 in 594 games. His number has been retired by the Flyers and he is a member of the hockey Hall of Fame.

2 Eric Desjardins

Arriving in a trade from Montreal along with John LeClair in 1994-95, the honoree won the Ashbee Trophy a record seven times and six straight years from 1994-95 through 1999-2000 and played in two All-Star games. A calming presence in his own zone, excellent defender and offensively gifted player who averaged 46 points over a six-year span, Desjardins was the quintessential defenseman.

3 Jimmy Watson

The unheralded Watson was quietly one of the best defensemen during the team's back-to-back Stanley Cup championship teams in 1974 and '75. A model of consistency, Watson was strong at both ends of the ice and spent his entire 10-year career with the Flyers.

4 Chris Pronger

The future Hall of Famer played just one full season with the Flyers, and only 145 total regular-season games, but it was one of the top individual performances in club history. Combining a monster shot from the point, an intimidating presence at the blue line and in-your-face leadership, he helped carry the Flyers to the Stanley Cup Finals in 2010. He had 18 points in 23 games during the postseason stretch but his career was shortened due to a concussion.

5 Kimmo Timonen

The smooth-skating Finland native has 270 points in 519 games with the Flyers and served as the top defenseman for all but one year since arriving in 2007. He's won the Barry Ashbee Trophy — given to the team's best defenseman — four times and represented the Flyers in three all-star games. An iron man who had missed just 21 games over his first seven seasons in Philly, Timonen has not played this year while recovering from blood clots. He has finally cleared for contact and is nearing a return.

"It has nothing to do with getting in shape," Timonen said of his attempt to return earlier this week. "It's guys bumping into you and hanging onto the puck."

Standings watch

Flyers can't afford to stay down for long

The Flyers played one of their best periods of hockey all season during the second frame against the Blue Jackets Tuesday, but it came in between two of their worst.

Philly outshot Columbus 20-6 and netted two goals in the 20-minute frame, but ultimately fell after being outscored 5-0 in the other two. With the team within six points (as of Wednesday) the Flyers could have cut the deficit to just four with the Bruins idle.

"Yeah, we need our best effort, and we need to get points," goalie Ray Emery said. "From here on in, every game is important."

Though the mantra in pro sports is to take things one day at a time while not worrying about outside factors, the players admit they can't help but scoreboard watch as they try and get into the playoff picture.

"I think we've been aware for the last month, two months," Wayne Simmonds said. "We have been playing catch-up all year. Obviously we have been paying attention."

The puck drops against the Sabres at the Wells Fargo Center Thursday at 7 p.m.

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3 NBA stars most likely to be moved before the deadline

NBA. Though the 76ers may not be the centerpiece of deadline day — as they were last year — some interesting moves are still likely Thursday.

Now that the bright lights of All-Star weekend in Brooklyn have faded, the league now shifts its focus to Thursday's NBA trade deadline.

Several teams have stated that they'll be very active at the deadline, including the Brooklyn Nets, Denver Nuggets and Philadelphia Sixers. But, there's always surprises on this day involving playoff-bound teams, trying to add the last piece to their rosters for a playoff push.

With this in mind, here's three potential deadline targets who could be changing cities Thursday.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
sports@metro.us

1 Brook Lopez, Brooklyn Nets

Lopez has been at the center of trade rumors for the majority of the season. The seventh-year center is averaging 15.3 points and 6.2 rebounds this season. A deal of Lopez to the Thunder nearly happened last month for Jeremy Lamb and Kendrick Perkins. Another trade, involving the Hornets' Lance Stephenson and Cody Zeller, lost its legs just before it was sent to the league offices.

Up to this point, it seemed as if the Nets were aiming for the best possible deal they could get for Lopez. They may just have to take what they can get at this point if nothing better comes to fruition. They could explore another deal to the Thunder, who'll be missing center Steven Adams for at least a couple more weeks during a crucial point of the season. If the Thunder are willing to package Reggie Jackson, Mitch McGary and Perkins for Lopez, the Nets might be willing to listen to their offer again and find a way to get the trade done. It would make the Thunder a very complete team for the rest of the season and beyond and give the Nets a couple solid young pieces to restart their rebuild once again.

Many teams are seeking a solid big man, putting the Nets' Lopez in high demand. / GETTY IMAGES

2 Arron Afflalo, Denver Nuggets

Afflalo has been one of the more consistent offensive threats at the shooting guard position in the NBA over the past five seasons. He's averaged 13.4 points per game over that span and would be a valuable piece for any team looking for an extra scoring option for a playoff push at the moment. The Bulls and Clippers have both shown interest in Afflalo over the past month.

The Bulls, who've already stated their desire of seeking a trade partner for Taj Gibson, could do a deal of Gibson for Afflalo straight up. After trading away Timofey Mozgov to the Cavaliers earlier this season, the Nuggets could use Gibson's defensive and rebounding services which he's shown over the years in Chicago. The Clippers would have a much harder time making a deal work. They'd most likely have to attach a first rounder in order to make a deal work.

3 Goran Dragic, Phoenix Suns

The Suns have three point guards right now in Eric Bledsoe, Isaiah Thomas and Dragic. With Dragic on an expiring deal, he's the guy the Suns are looking to move but only at the right asking price. The Suns would want big man help in return and the Rockets and Lakers are said to be interested in bringing in Dragic.

The Rockets could offer power forward Terrence Jones and Jason Terry to net Dragic. Jones returned recently from an ailing leg injury and has noticeably bulked up in his time away. With Josh Smith taking most of his minutes, the Rockets can afford to send him away for Dragic and the Suns could really use his services in the front court. The Lakers are another interested and viable landing spot for Dragic.

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A848 - CLUELOW, PATRICIA A • A878 - Alexandre, Josiane • A880 - CLUELOW, PATRICIA A
B1106 - Lucas, Michael • B1625 - Byrd, Robyn • C2105 - Robbins, Christi
C2111 - Raja, Nimir • P013 - Davis, Garry Nissan Murano, Bronze, 2007, vin7286

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2072 - Himes, Kenneth • 2166 - Patestos, Theadore • 2171 - Douglas, Howard • 2179 - Porter, Michael
2236 - Newsome, Tony • 2342 - Padilla, Elizabeth • 3015 - Velasquez, Leany • 3017 - Firmani, James
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Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Self Storage Act Pennsylvania Statues, 73, Chapter 26, 1901 et seg.. A Public Auction Will take Place on **2/24/15** at the below listed Public Storage Facilities for the follow units/Tenants. The Contents of which shall satisfy the Owners Lien. **Public Storage Located At, 7000 Lindbergh Blvd Philadelphia PA 19153 at 2:00 PM (215)-365-2105.**

0023 - Williams, Clean • 0036 - Rhoades-Thomas, Kevin • 0047 - Mapp, Laurence • 0079 - Vereen, Anthony • 0101 - Swinson, Jesse
0116 - Brown, Hugh • 0144 - Fitzgerald, Faith • 0193 - Temple, Ashley • 0203 - Peebles, Chantelle • 0229 - Lassouer, Aliyah
0236 - Sherl, Thomas • 0256 - Santini, Denise • 0266 - Watson, Anika • 0327 - DOYLE, DAVID/JAMIE • 0426 - Shaw, Keisha
0430 - Parker, Geneva • 0435 - Morgan, Dennis • 0454 - Owens, Edie • 0575 - Mobley-Stimpson, Cheryl • 0588 - Syllah, Kadiatu
0591 - Trahan, Anika • 0713 - WHITE, CARLTON • 0747 - Madala, Ronald • 0760 - Evans, Alton • 0802 - Coats, Lionel
0842 - Harvey, April • 0857 - Brown, John • 0932 - Klaiss, Debra • 0957 - Parker, Cheryl • 0955 - Mitchell Jr, Bernard
1058 - Parker, Angel • 9012 - Johnson, Gloria - Chevy Blazer, vin 9090, green, 1994

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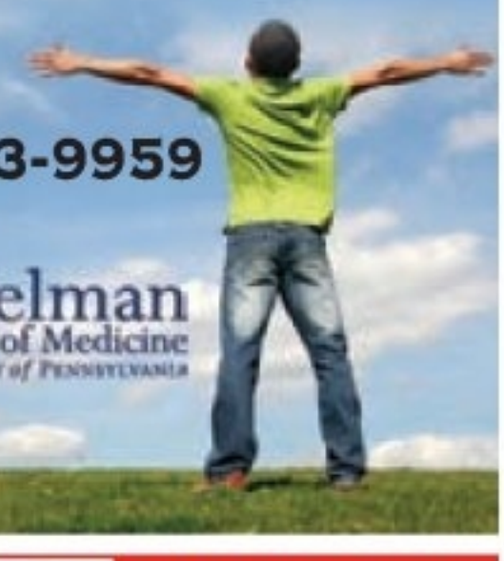

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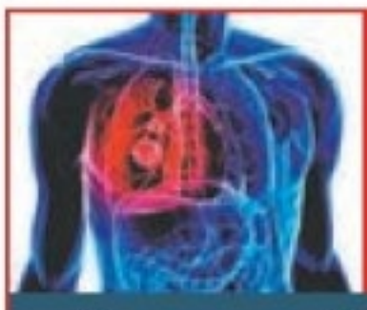

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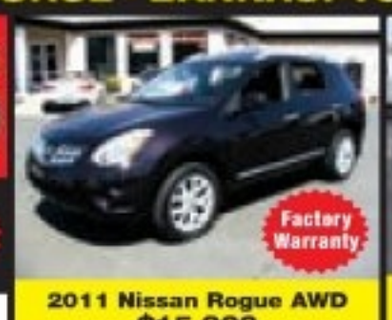

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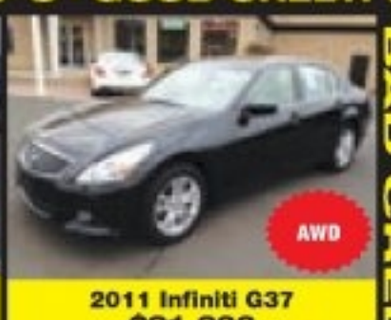

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